

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8028

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0073

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, DM, AN

SUBJ: AFTER ADDIS ABABA - BENIN GOVT'S REACTION

REF A - COTONOU 59 (NOTAL), B - STATE 8555,

1. BENINESE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER "EHUZU" JAN 15 FRONT-PAGED AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AFTER ADDIS ABABA"ASSESSING RESULTS OF OAU SUMMIT. TREATING SESSION AS A COMBAT BETWEEN THE FORCES OF "JUSTICE" AND THOSE OF "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM", EDITORIAL DECLARES IT ENDED IN VICTORY FOR MPLA AND ITS SUPPORTERS.

2. IDEAS OF A GOVT OF NATIONAL UNITY OR A "NO WAR, NO PEACE" SOLUTION ARE TERMED "ODIOUS FORMULAE DISCOVERED BY INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM". MODERATE AFRICAN STATES WHICH SUPPORTED SUCH SOLUTIONS ARE BRANDED "TRAITORS TO THE AFRICAN NATION". FURTHERMORE,"IT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED MANY TIMES OVER THAT ARMED STRUGGLE PAYS". IN FACT, THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. EXAMPLES CITED TO "PROVE" THE POINT ARE THOSE OF ALGERIA, GUINEA-BISSAO, VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA.

3. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES EXHORTING INCREASED VIGILANCE AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ANGOLAN (MPLA) CAUSE "UNTIL ITS TOTAL VICTORY OVER REACTIONARY FORCES AND INTERNATIONAL IMPERIAL-
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ISM".

4. COMMENT: WHILE EDITORIAL AVOIDS MENTION OF USG BY NAME, "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM" AND REFERENCES TO INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES ARE FORMULAS USUALLY EMPLOYED BY GOVT OF PRB TO ATTACK UNITED STATES ON THIS KIND OF ISSUE. WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS NEW IN THE EDITORIAL, IS THE ATTACK ON AFRICA'S MODERATE STATES AS "TRAITORS" TO AFRICA. BENIN GOVT PROBABLY REALIZES THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH THOSE STATES ARE SO BAD ALREADY THAT AN OPEN ATTACK ON THEM CAN DO LITTLE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE.
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